Import of Luxury Items

3505. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted the import of luxury items like 29-inch colour T.V. sets, air-conditioned buses, wood products, synthetic perfumes, synthetic flavours etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the impact of these imports on the respective indigenous industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Import of 29" : Colour T.V. sets, Air-conditioned buses, Wood products, Synthetic perfumery compounds and Synthetic flavouring essence has been permited against Special Import Licences to support and assist the Export House/ Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses/ Super Star Trading Houses. Import of these items shall help in creating competitive environment among the indigenous industry.

Import of Agricultural Goods by Japan

3506. SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total volume of agricultural goods imported by Japan and West Europe in 1991-93 and what proportions of those came from Africa, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, India and rest of Asia?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The details of import of agricultural goods into the European Union (EU)were as below:

(Qty. Million tonnes; Value: Million ECUs)

Country Group						
				Value		
Extra AEU	36929	88.50	37510	96.57	37077	91.24
India	492	1.36	488	1.30	580	1.51
Rest of Asia	4943	14.12	5594	18.03	5264	15.41
Africa	4148	5.23	3833	5.01	3739	4.90
Latin America	9738	27.45	9410	27.66	9208	26.30
New Zealand	928	0.60	931	0.62	977	0.59
Australia	311	0.40	400	0.78	456	0.99
	57489	137.66	58166	149.97	57301	140.94

(SOURCE: Embassy of India at Brussels)

The details of imports of agricultural commodities into Japan are given below:

(US $ Billion)

	1991	1992	1993
US	10.51	11.58	12.00
China	2.68	3.02	3.43
Taiwan	2.64	2.86	3.08
Australia	2.15	2.29	2.67
Thailand	1.93	2.16	2.23
Canada	1.98	2.14	2.13
Republic of Korea	1.55	1.57	1.56
Indonesia	0.90	0.91	1.10
France	1.14	1.12	1.09
Denmark	0.79	0.89	0.95
Others	8.98	9.56	9.92
TOTAL	32.35	38.10	40.16

(SOURCE: Embassy of India, Japan)

New Policy of Coffee Board

3507. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 797 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1994 and state:

(a) what mechanism will be introduced by the Coffee Board to provide coffee in the domestic market at rates prevalent earlier to the new policy of the Coffee Board;

(b) whether the new policy of the Coffee Board favours the planters and taxes the consumers; and

(c) whether Government will consider levying cess on export of coffee to subsidise the domestic price of coffee as the planters are making hudge profits and export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As a measure to contain the rise in prices of coffee in the domestic market, the Govt. has recently directed the Coffee Board to release export permits not exceeding, 1,10,000 tonnes only for the period 1.1.94 to 31.12.94 and at a monthly quota not exceeding 5000 tonnes from Sept. to Dec., 94. The Coffee Board has also been directed not to permit export of C grades, BBB and Peaberry grades till further orders except in such cases for which valid applications had been received by the Board upto 5.8.94.

(b) The Free Sale Quota introduced recently is expected to minimise the intermediary & establishment costs of coffee marketing thereby benefiting both the consumers and the growers.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of Government at present to levy cess on export of coffee to subsidise its domestic price.

Pending Claims Under IPRS

3508. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of claims pending under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) as on the 30th June, 1994;

(b) what steps have been taken to settle the pending claims;

(c) whether it is a fact that the claims relating to the year 1992 onwards from the industrial units in Tamil Nadu State are pending; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI